Conditions of Indian workers in Middle-East

2230. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the treatment being meted out to Indian workers, particularly maid servants, recruited and sent from South India to the Middle-East countries and also wages and other benefits being given to them; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Missions abroad render all possible assistance to such workers in resolving their complaints.

Enacting of a Bill on social boycott

2231. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra (Reformist) Community have urged the Central Government to bring a legislation against the practice of social boycott/excommunication to curb the growing communal/religious fundamentalism;

(b) whether Government have considered the suggestion; and

(c) if so by when the Bill in this regard is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government do not, however, propose to undertake any legislation in this regard at present.

Call for cut in Nuclear Arms

2232. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 900 eminent persons have asked for cut in nuclear arms and if so what are the details of the proposal and its chances of acceptance by nuclear powers; and

(b) how Government propose to support this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) More than 900 eminent persons from 80 countries attended an international forum entitled "For a nuclear free world-for the survival of humanity" held in Moscow on February 14-15 1987. The forum called for drastic cuts in the levels of nuclear weapons to promote stability and security.

(b) Government's consistent support for nuclear disarmament, for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and for, in the interim period, a prohibition on the threat or use of nuclear weapons are fully in accordance with the decisions of the forum held in Moscouw.

Supply of arms to Pakistan by Switzerland

2233. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the supply of arms worth Rs. 26 crores to Pakistan by Switzerland during 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Switzerland; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a)

Government have seen press reports in this regard.

(b) According to these reports, till November 1986, weapons and ammunition worth 32 million Swiss Francs have been sold to Pakistan while it is apparently Swiss policy not to disclose the nature of weapons and war material sold to any country, the reports indicate these included 20 mm and 35 mm anti aircraft guns, skyguard fire control systems and ammunition.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) We were informed that the weapons sold to Pakistan were on a commercial basis and for defensive purposes. Furthermore that the same Swiss company will entertain similar requests for arms from India.

Development of Surrli Falls in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu as a Tourist Spot

2234. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN:
SHRI M. VINCENT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government have requested the Central Government to develop Surrli Falls in Madurai District as a tourist spot during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to speed up the work of development in view of the vast number of pilgrims and tourists visiting the Falls?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Madras Export Processing Zone

2235. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Madras Export Processing Zone was set up;

(b) what was the area originally required; the plan outlay, the total number of export processing units to be set up and expected strength of workforce to be employed and other details thereof;

(c) what are the details regarding the area developed, the number of units set up, the total work-force employed and the total amount of exports since its inception as on date;

(d) what are the future plans for development of this Zone and the likely investment and the number of units, along with the targetted export;

(e) how many out of these are NRI units and investments made therein; and

(f) what steps are being taken to provide infrastructure facilities, including water Power and other raw materials to the present units and also for the units to be set up in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Madras Export Processing Zone was declared a Customs bonded area through a Gazette Notification dated 16.8.1985.

(b) The Zone has been set up in an area of about 98 acres with a plan outlay of Rs. 10.44 crores towards capital expenditure. It is anticipated that there will be 120 industrial units in the first phase employing a substantial number of industrial and managerial workforce.